

PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 08505.0007-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
 )  
Andrew John Thomas ) Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned  
 )  
Serial No.: Not yet assigned ) Examiner: Not yet assigned  
 )  
Filed: Herewith )  
 )  
For: A BALL )  
 )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application  
as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

After the title, please insert the following new paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/951,381, filed  
September 14, 2001, which claims the priority of international application number  
PCT/AU00/00185, filed March 14, 2000, which claims the priority of Australian Patent  
Application No. PP 9230, filed March 16, 1999, the content of which are incorporated  
herein by reference.